

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SECTO 10012 300709Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----105108 300710Z /11
O 300522Z SEP 77 ZFF-6
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN NEW YORK
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 10012

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, LE, IS
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF U.S.-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT TO LEBANON

REF: A. TEL AVIV 6078; B. TEL AVIV 7143

1. WE HAVE OBTAINED RECENT RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT ON SEPTEMBER 28, FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL BY THE IDF FROM LEBANON, A NUMBER OF "SUPER SHERMAN" TANKS WERE STILL INSIDE LEBANON NEAR QLAYA. WE HAVE HAD INFORMATION THAT SUPER SHERMANS MAY HAVE BEEN IN THE POSSESSION OF CHRISTIAN MILITARY ELSEWHERE THAN IN THE SOUTH, BUT THIS LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOUTH IS THE HARDEST AND MOST RELIABLE YET. OUR INFORMATION DOES NOT INDICATE WHEN OR HOW TANKS WERE OBTAINED, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THEY MAY HAVE BEEN IN LEBANON FOR SOME MONTHS.

2. THE PROBLEM LIES IN FACT THAT AS WEIZMAN HAS ACKNOWLEDGED (REF B), ISRAELI-MODIFIED SUPER SHERMAN TANK CONTAINS U.S.-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING ENGINES, PROVIDED ISRAEL UNDER FMS AGREEMENTS AND TO WHICH THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFER PROVISIONS APPLY. ACTUAL TANK
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CHASIS MAY NOT NECESSARILY HAVE BEEN ACQUIRED BY ISRAEL UNDER FMS ARRANGEMENTS.

3. UNTIL NOW WE HAVE TAKEN POSITION, IN RESPONSE TO INSISTENT PRESS AND CONGRESSIONAL QUERIES ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF ISRAEL'S HAVING TRANSFERRED U.S.-FURNISHED EQUIPMENT TO CHRISTIAN FORCES IN LEBANON IN VIOLATION

OF AGREEMENTS WITH U.S., THAT U.S. HAS NO REASON TO
DOUBT ISRAELI ASSURANCES THAT SUCH TRANSFERS HAVE NOT
OCCURRED (OUR MOST RECENT INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT
WAS PROVIDED YOU BY WIZMAN ON AUGUST 16-REF (A)).
IN VIEW OF RECENT INFORMATION OUTLINED ABOVE, HOWEVER,
WE BELIEVE WE NEED TO ASK GOI WHETHER, AND IF SO WHAT,
MILITARY EQUIPMENT WITH U.S.-FURNISHED ARTICLES IT MAY
HAVE PROVIDED CHRISTIANS.

4. PLEASE LET ME HAVE YOUR RECOMMENDATION AS QUICKLY
AS POSSIBLE ABOUT HOW WE CAN BEST HANDLE THIS OB-
VIOUSLY DELICATE ISSUE WITH ISRAELIS.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: MASS, LE, IS, US
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